

Rigged Hill Windfarm Repowering Economic Impact

During the lifetime of the development the Repowered Rigged Hill Windfarm is expected to create opportunities for:

- Haulage
- Turbine base and access track construction
- Fencing installation
- Catering
- Transport
- Supply of building materials
- Mechanical, Electrical and Supervisory services
- Waste management
- Site and building maintenance
- Waste oil recycling
- Snow clearing
- Cleaning
- Consumables deliveries

“For the twenty-odd years we’ve been carrying out work for SPR, our relationship has been completely positive. SPR’s business has not only benefitted us, but also those other local businesses, such as suppliers and builders merchants, who we use in order to acquire materials for the works.”
Niall Corrigan, William & Henry Alexander (Civil Engineering) Ltd.



Construction & Operation

Initial Decommissioning and Construction Phases:

- Local contractors and suppliers in the Causeway Coast and Glens area could secure initial decommissioning and construction contracts worth around £2.1 million
- Contracts worth £9.4 million could be available to the wider Northern Irish market
- Creation of up to 16 job years in Causeway Coast and Glens, 73 job years in Northern Ireland during construction⁽¹⁾

Operational Phase:

- Locally there would be Operational and Maintenance contracts of around £0.4 million annually, which equates to £10.6 million over an illustrative 30 year life
- Nationally there would be Operational and Maintenance contracts of around £0.5 million annually, which equates to £15 million over an illustrative 30 year life
- Around 3 new jobs in the Causeway Coast & Glens area during operation, and 4 new jobs created elsewhere in Northern Ireland⁽¹⁾

Climate Change & Carbon Reduction

The potential savings in CO2 emissions due to the proposed Development replacing other electricity sources over the lifetime of the windfarm are approximately:

- 34,750 tonnes of CO2 avoided annually compared with a fossil fuel-mix of electricity generation
- Assuming an illustrative 30 year life the turbines would save 1.04 million tonnes of CO2 compared to a fossil fuel-mix of electricity, and will repay the carbon emissions related to its construction in around 1 year⁽¹⁾
- The UK Government announced in June 2019 that it will commit to a new plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions to ‘net zero’ by 2050, to tackle climate change⁽⁵⁾



Environment

A Habitat Management Plan is proposed as part of the Development, which will enhance the nature conservation value of the windfarm site. The Habitat Management Area encompasses a total area of 76.04 hectares of land, and will support the conservation of peatland habitat and benefit a wide range of bird species, in particular; snipe, hen harrier, kestrel, skylark and meadow pipit.



Powering the Future

Onshore wind is the lowest-cost form of new power generation available⁽⁴⁾.

UK Public Support for Onshore Wind has reached a record high of 79% according to the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker report published June 2019⁽⁶⁾.



Rigged Hill Windfarm Repowering

A proposal to Repower the existing Rigged Hill Windfarm

About ScottishPower Renewables

ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy.

ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day in 2019 to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.

Site Summary - Key Facts



What is a Repower? This is when we remove older wind turbines and replace them with more modern efficient machines.

Up to 137m tip height

7 wind turbines

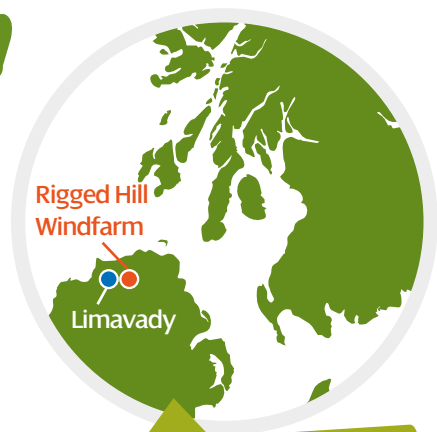
of around 4MW capacity

Installed capacity of around 30MW

Capable of producing up to 7 times the output of the existing 10 turbine Rigged Hill Windfarm



Generating enough power for over 19,000 homes⁽¹⁾



Proposed energy storage capabilities, providing ancillary services to the grid network. This will form the subject of a future separate planning application.

Economic Benefits

Proposing the implementation of a Community Benefit Fund

Meet-the-buyer events to allow local contractors to learn about and tender for local opportunities



Training and education

Once operational the windfarm will contribute towards the payment of land rentals, and a significant sum of business rates to the local economy, expected to be in the region of £13.1 million over an illustrative 30 year period⁽¹⁾

A report undertaken by Baringa looked at the economic effects of Northern Irish windfarms on consumers. It found that through the deployment of 1.4GW of wind between 2000 – 2020, Northern Ireland will have seen a total net benefit of £135 million to consumers as a result of windfarms. A summary of findings showed⁽²⁾:

£0.6 billion wholesale energy cost savings

Between 2000 and 2020, wind generation has avoided 9 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions

72,000GW of fossil fuels avoided at a saving of £1 billion

The Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group states that windfarms represent £1.3 billion of investment into the Northern Ireland economy, and local councils receive more than £10 million annually from business rates alone⁽³⁾

Benefits to the Community

Through our established presence in Northern Ireland, SPR has voluntarily contributed to local communities surrounding our windfarms including donations made to and managed by the Fermanagh Trust and funding for local primary schools, as well as community funding for local and social benefits.

Some examples of projects supported include:

Improvements to community centre accessibility



Local youth group summer activity programs



- Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition training equipment
- Working with Belleek Playgroup to create a new sensory garden

SPR is proposing a community benefit package which could fund local projects including those identified by Drumsurn in its village plan, which could improve community buildings, support new services and expand village infrastructure



References

- (1) Biggar Economics; Rigged Hill Wind Farm: Socio-Economic Assessment, 2019
- (2) Baringa; The Wind Dividend: How wind energy pays back to Northern Ireland, 2019
- (3) NIRIG; Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2018
- (4) BEIS; Electricity Generation Costs, 2016
- (5) The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 target amendment) order 2019
- (6) BEIS; Public Attitudes Tracker – Wave 30, 2019

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Better future, quicker



Cover Image: Rigged Hill Windfarm Photomontage, turbine tip heights 137m
Other Images: Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m and Kilgallioch Windfarm, turbine tip heights 146.5m